

SN: 09/834,682

29566/KC15,412

Patent

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In FIGURES 3 and 4, elastics have been illustratively omitted from lateral sections 28 and 29 to clarify locations of article components, e.g. attachment sites 46. Although elastics are not specifically illustrated in lateral sections 28 and 29 of FIGURES 3 and 4, such lateral sections are to be understood to comprise any herein described material or composite for constructing lateral sections 28 and 29.

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 15-20 without prejudice and with right of re-entry into this application or any other appropriate application.

Kindly amend Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, and 14 as follows.

A/11

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B14 1(Amended). A personal care article as in Claim 8, each of said outer portions of said first and second lateral sections being secured to one of said third and fourth side edges of said back portion to form a pant-like article having a waist opening, and first and second leg openings.

A/12

7(Amended). A personal care article as in Claim 6 wherein the inner edges are joined together at a line of weakness.

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8(Amended). A personal care article, comprising:

- (a) a front portion having a front end, a second end, a first side edge, and a second side edge;
- (b) a first lateral section and a second lateral section, each of the first and second lateral sections having an inner portion releasably fastened to said

SN: 09/834,682

29566/KC15,412  
Patent

*A12  
(nd)*  
front portion, and an outer portion attached at one or more attachment sites to said front portion;

*b16*  
(c) a back portion having a back end, a third side edge and a fourth side edge; and

(d) a crotch portion between said front portion and said back portion,

each of said outer portions of said first and second lateral sections being positioned on said front portion for securement to one of said third and fourth side edges of said back portion to form a pant-like article having a waist opening, and first and second leg openings,

strength of attachment, at said attachment site, of said outer portions of said first and second lateral sections to said front portion being sufficiently weak that such attachments can be separated from said front portion without substantially fracturing said front portion.

*A14*  
*Sub B14* 11(Amended). A personal care article as in Claim 8 wherein the attachment at the attachment sites between the outer portions of the lateral sections and the front portion comprises employment of at least one of adhesive bonds, ultrasonic bonds, hook and loop fastening, snaps, buttons, tapes, needle punching, piercing, and thermally activated bonding.

*A17*  
14(Amended). A personal care article as in Claim 13 wherein said inner edges are joined together at a line of weakness.

Please add the following new Claim 21.

SN: 09/834,682

29566/KC15,412  
Patent

*A14* *Sub*  
*B20* 21(New). A personal care article as in Claim 1, strength of attachment of said inner portions of said first and second lateral sections to said front portion being less than strength of the securement of said outer portions of said first and second lateral sections to said back portion, whereby attachment of said inner portions of said first and second lateral sections to said front portion can be separated from said front portion without separating the securement of said first and second lateral sections from the third and fourth side edges of said back portion.